

03 Drawing strength from Dogra legacy, time to make mark in global world: Dr Jitendra

09 J&K has most productive forests of India: ISFR 2023

10 JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates National Energy Conservation Day

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Modi receives Kuwait's highest honour



PM Modi receiving highest honour - 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer' from Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

■ AGENCY

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Sunday conferred its highest honour - 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer' - on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his role in strengthening the good relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi received the honour from Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Bayan Palace here.

"I am honoured to be conferred the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Order by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. I dedicate this honour to the people of

India and to the strong friendship between India and Kuwait," Modi said in a post on X.

The 'Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer' is a knighthood order of Kuwait.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the conferment of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Order on Prime Minister Modi is a proud moment for all Indians.

The honour recognises Prime Minister's steadfast commitment and leadership in strengthening linkages with the Gulf region. Also showcases the depth of India-Kuwait historic ties and people to people ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India, Kuwait condemn cross-border terrorism

KUWAIT CITY: India and Kuwait on Sunday vowed to enhance counter-terror cooperation while unequivocally condemning terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terrorist activities.

Ways to deal with the challenge of terrorism figured in talks between the two sides during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Gulf nation.

"The two sides unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and called for disrupting of terrorism financing networks and safe havens, and dismantling of terror infrastructure," a joint statement said.

The reference to cross-border terrorism comes amid Pakistan's support to terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Sunday, Modi held extensive talks with Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with a focus on giving new momentum to the overall bilateral ties.

The joint statement said the two sides discussed ways and means to promote cooperation in cybersecurity, including the prevention ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India can never permit others to have veto on its choices: Jaishankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India can never permit others to have a veto on its choices and will do whatever is right in the national interest and for the global good without being intimidated to "conform".

In a video message for a function in Mumbai on Saturday, he said when India is etched more deeply in global consciousness, its repercussions are truly profound.

In a world grappling with unhealthy habits, stressed lifestyles or recurring climate events, there is much learning to be gained from India's

heritage. But the world will only know when the country-men take pride in it, he said.

In an age of globalisation,



technology and tradition must march together, said Jaishankar.

"Bharat will inevitably progress but it must do so without losing its Bharatiyata. Only then can we truly emerge as a leading

power in a multi-polar world," he said.

Jaishankar was conferred the 27th SIES Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati National Eminence Award. The awards are given in four fields - Public Leadership, Community Leadership, Human endeavour, Science and Technology and Social Leadership - with primacy on spiritualism. The awards are named after the late 68th Seer of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi. The foreign minister did not attend

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Pak-trained terrorist arrested in Bengal, sent to J&K Police custody till Dec 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A joint operation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and West Bengal Police's Special Task Force (STF) led to the arrest of a suspected terrorist from the Canning area of West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. The accused, identified as Javed Munshi, is alleged to be a senior member of the banned terror organisation Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM).

Munshi received his training in Pakistan, India Today TV reported quoting sources.

Munshi was produced before the Alipore court in Kolkata. The court granted him a transit remand

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CB files charge-sheets against 18 accused in 9 cases of frauds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch (CB) has filed charge-sheets against 18 accused including a former journalist and four government employees in nine cases of frauds.

"Among the accused against whom charge-sheets have been submitted to the courts included one former journalist, three property dealers, two former contractors and four government employees," CB official said.

"The charge-sheets have been filed in different courts in Jammu, Samba and Udhampur for further judicial proceedings", official said, adding that the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amid chill in Kashmir

CM stations himself in Valley to oversee functioning of power, other services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid bone-chilling cold wave currently gripping the Kashmir Valley, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced on Sunday that he would station himself in Srinagar for the next week to personally oversee the functioning of the Power Department and other critical services. The Chief Minister, who attended the pre-Budget and GST Council meetings in Jaishankar, Rajasthan, conveyed his decision through a

series of tweets, emphasizing his commitment to addressing the challenges faced by



the people of the Valley during this severe cold spell.

The Kashmir Valley is cur-

rently experiencing one of the coldest winters in recent years, with temperatures plummeting to record-breaking lows. Srinagar recently recorded a chilling minus 8.5 degrees Celsius, the coldest December night in over 50 years.

The intense cold spell has severely disrupted water supply and electricity, adding to the residents' struggles.

In his tweets, the Chief Minister stated: "In light

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi to distribute over 71,000 appointment letters today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 71,000 appointment letters to new recruits in various central government departments on Monday via videoconferencing, his office said.

Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of the prime minister to accord the highest priority to employment generation, according to a statement issued by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9


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Amit Shah draws roadmap of J&K in pursuit of goal of Viksit Bharat



THE year-end eve is approaching. It was important for the Central Government to review its policies and policies toward Jammu and Kashmir. That happened on December 19 when Union Home Minister Amit Shah held two back to back meetings with the appointed and elected leadership of the Union Territory. As it would have been the case, the schedule of the meetings suggested how committed the Modi Government is for democratically flourishing and secure J&K.

In fact, it was a feedback by the man of the moment for J&K for the past over five and a half years - Amit Shah as Home Minister. It would be more appropriate to call him the man of all seasons and years ever since Narendra Modi arrived on the national political landscape in 2014. Shah was BJP President from 2014 to 2019, before he assumed the office of Home Minister of the country.

Two meetings on December 19, first with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah revolving around the demand for the restoration of the statehood to J&K, and with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and all the heads of the security forces and agencies to review the security situation and lay a roadmap for next year, heralded journey on path of making Jammu and Kashmir great again. The thrust is two-fold, fighting external enemies and their sympathiz-

ers within, and to ensure that the path that was undertaken after August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was done away with is pursued with extra vigour.

What has come out of these future-defining meetings chaired by Home Minister is that there would be no deviation from the direction that the Modi government has envisaged for J&K. The alternative narratives that have been floated will not be allowed to cast their shadow on the situation and thinking at the national level. That's where Amit Shah's call for terror-free J&K should be understood and analyzed as to why it is a roadmap for future.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The resounding appeal of "terror-free J&K at the earliest" is certain to echo all across the UT. That is what can bring this territory everything it wants under the Constitution of India as an integral part of the country. This will fit into the old and time tested proverb "first deserve then desire". It also serves as a reminder to the people of J&K that how dismantling of ecosystem of terrorism - 92 per cent decline in terror incidents as compared to the previous years. In simple mathematics, it is the space gained for peace for future of Kashmir. This has generational effect, something that the present generation can be proud of bequeathing high quality peace to the new ones. And when terrorism is eliminated in full scale, peace is 100 per cent and it brings perfect potential for the future generations to dream and realize the same. There would be no

interruptions and disruptions.

Amit Shah did not mince words while describing the direction and goal of terror free Jammu and Kashmir, as he stated that "in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Zero tolerance public policy against terrorism, we will achieve the goal of terror free Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest and all resources will be made available for this." In saying so, Home Minister has live up to his reputation of "man of action" in the true spirit of India's iron man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who united India by using persuasion and power in the most difficult and challenging times of the Partition. Amit Shah, by his work has reversed the fissiparous tendencies that had erupted in J&K, North-east and Naxal-hit areas.

In the December 19 meeting, Home Minister did not ask the security forces to accomplish the task without providing means to do so as he also committed that all resources will be made available to achieve the goal of terror-free J&K. The resources are not only the advanced weaponry and technical support but a psychological cover, in which no alternative narrative is allowed to intrude. The physical support works only when the psychological support is there. The two support systems complement each other. In short, Amit Shah has not only laid vision for 2025 but also for the rest of the years, at least till the centenary of India's Independence in 2047- when the PM's vision of "Viksit Bharat" will become a reality, which the world will watch with envy.